

Greater Cambridge Local Plan

Proposed Submission Plan: Interim Draft Statement of Compliance



GREATER CAMBRIDGE
SHARED PLANNING

3 July 2026

To be published as part of the Proposed Submission Local Plan - Regulation 19
consultation (July 2026)

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1. Introduction

This Interim Draft Statement of Compliance represents the position as at 3 July 2026 and has been made available for the South Cambridgeshire District Council Scrutiny and Overview Committee (14 July) and the Cambridge City Council Performance, Assets and Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Committee (15 July). A revised Draft Statement of Compliance will be published in August as part of the Regulation 19 Consultation on the Proposed Submission Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council Joint Approach

1.1 The Greater Cambridge Local Plan is a joint plan between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (“the Councils”). As detailed in Planning Practice Guidance ([Plan-Making - Maintaining effective cooperation](#)) “Local planning authorities can agree to prepare a joint plan with neighbouring authorities under [section 28 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#), or form a joint committee (to include one or more county councils) under [section 29 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#).”

National Policy Context (Duty to Cooperate)

1.2 The Duty to Co-operate (DtC) in relation to planning for sustainable development was inserted by Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011 and amending section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 accordingly. It placed a legal duty on local planning authorities (LPAs), county councils and other prescribed bodies to co-operate with each other to address strategic cross-boundary matters relevant to their areas (noting that cross-boundary matters include those between Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire as well as those affecting areas beyond the outer boundary of South Cambridgeshire). The duty required on-going constructive and active engagement in the preparation of local plans and other activities relating to sustainable development and use of land.

1.3 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) was enacted in November 2023 and at this time the government stated that once secondary legislation was enacted it would remove the DtC¹. While the current plan-making system is temporarily ‘saved’ to allow emerging plans to progress to examination by 31 December 2026, it was decided not to ‘save’ the Duty, thereby removing this requirement for plans in the current system. The secondary LURA legislation made in March 2026² removed the DtC. This was replaced with a policy requirement to demonstrate effective co-operation between plan-making

¹ [On 27 November 2025 the Secretary of State wrote to the Chief Executive of the Planning Inspectorate¹ setting out his intention to abolish the Duty to Cooperate through the introduction of new regulations in early 2026.](#)

² [The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 \(Commencement No. 11 and Saving and Transitional Provisions\) Regulations 2026](#)

authorities - the NPPF expects LPAs to continue to collaborate across their boundaries, maintaining effective co-operation.

- 1.4 The Proposed Submission Greater Cambridge Local Plan has, to date, been prepared with full regard to the DtC, notwithstanding the fact that the duty is no longer a procedural/legal requirement.
- 1.5 The Greater Cambridge Local Plan has been prepared and will be examined under the NPPF published in December 2024. Most of this statement therefore relates to the December 2024 NPPF and, as such, references to the NPPF should be taken as referring to this version unless otherwise specified.
- 1.6 The NPPF emphasises the need for constructive cross boundary co-operation. The local plan has been prepared in line with paragraphs 24-28 of the [National Planning Policy Framework](#), and supporting [Planning Practice Guidance](#), setting out requirements relating to maintaining effective cooperation. Elements include:
- the need for strategic policy-making authorities to identify the relevant strategic matters which need to be addressed in plans;
 - the need for strategic policy-making authorities to collaborate with other strategic policy-making authorities, and to engage with other relevant bodies;
 - effective and on-going joint working to produce a positively prepared and justified strategy;
 - joint working should help to determine whether additional infrastructure is necessary, and whether development needs that cannot be met wholly within a particular plan area could be met elsewhere;
 - that plans ensure a consistent approach is taken to planning the delivery of major infrastructure, unmet development needs from neighbouring areas are provided for in, and any allocation or designation which has significant implications for neighbouring areas is appropriately managed; and
 - the need to prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground, documenting the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating to address these (these should be made publicly available throughout the plan-making process to provide transparency).

Purpose of the Statement of Compliance

- 1.7 To demonstrate that effective cooperation has been maintained during plan preparation, the Councils have prepared a Statement of Compliance, Statement of Common Ground, and a number of Supplementary Statements of Common Ground (Sup-SoCGs). with relevant bodies.
- 1.8 The Statement of Compliance provides an audit trail demonstrating how

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (the Councils) have engaged constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with relevant bodies in the preparation of development plan documents – in this case the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. It details which bodies the Councils have co-operated with and on which strategic matters/issues, the nature and timing of the co-operation and the outcomes of the engagement to date (including how strategic approaches and policies in the proposed submission Greater Cambridge Local Plan have been influenced by effective co-operation and joint working).

- 1.9 This Statement of Compliance documents DtC activities undertaken since the publication of the December 2025 Statement of Compliance supporting the draft Greater Cambridge Local consultation (1 December 2025 until 30 January 2026) and up to the proposed submission Greater Cambridge Local Plan Consultation (Regulation 19³). Previous activities are documented in previous versions of the Statement of Compliance prepared for earlier stages of the plan making process.

Timetable for ongoing co-operation and statements of common ground

- 1.10 This Statement will be subject to future revision prior to the submission of the Local Plan, which is anticipated in December 2026.
- 1.11 The Draft Statement of Common Ground and accompanying Draft Supplementary Statements of Common Ground will be the subject of ongoing discussion with the bodies concerned and finalised prior to submission.
- 1.12 It may be that not all matters can be fully resolved prior to submission, in which case, the Statement of Common Ground and Supplementary Statements of Common Ground will highlight any outstanding issues where it has not been possible to reach agreement and the reasons for this.
- 1.13 The Statement of Common Ground, Supplementary Statements of Common Ground and Statement of Compliance are iterative reflecting a point in time, and may be revised after plan submission to reflect any progress made thereafter.

Relationship with other documents

- 1.14 This Statement has a close relationship with a number of other documents as follows:

a) Statement(s) of Common Ground

- 1.15 A Statement of Common Ground is intended to be a concise sign-posting

³ Previous activities are documented in previous versions of the Statement of Compliance prepared for earlier stages of the plan making process.

document setting out the outcomes at a point in time of the ongoing cooperation with relevant bodies regarding strategic cross-boundary matters set out in the Statement of Compliance (this document). In so doing, the Statement of Common Ground addresses [National Planning Policy Framework](#) paragraph 36, which states that "Plans are sound if they are 'Effective...based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground'".

- 1.16 The Planning Practice Guidance ([Plan-Making - Maintaining effective cooperation](#)) sets out the required approach to preparing one or more Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) with relevant bodies. In accordance with the guidance, the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Proposed Submission Plan Statement of Common Ground has been published alongside this Statement of Compliance. Updates to the Statement of Common Ground are published at each stage of the plan making process.
- 1.17 While several matters are addressed through the Draft Statement of Common Ground, strategic matters and issues which are particularly lengthy or complex have been covered in separate Supplementary Statements of Common Ground documents. Each Sup-SoCG addresses a specific matter. Some have been prepared between the Councils and an individual party; others have involved multiple parties. They evidence specific joint working, providing transparency of any outstanding issues and areas of agreement and disagreement, and describing how parties are working together towards agreement.
- 1.18 A list of the Sup-SoCGs and their current status is set out in Table 1 (below). The SoCG and Sup-SoCGs (which are appended to the SoCG) are available as part of the Proposed Submission Local Plan document library.

Table 1: Statements of Common Ground, Supplementary SoCGs and their current status

Relevant DtC bodies	Status of Statement of Common Ground	Status of Supplementary Statement of Common Ground(s)	Date of last correspondence (from relevant body)
Cambridgeshire County Council	Agreed subject to amendments (not confirmed)	(vii)- Agreed subject to amendments (not confirmed)	24 June 2026
Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority	No comments received	(i) – Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed) (ii) – Agreed subject to amendments (not confirmed) (vi) - Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed) (vii) - Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	1 July 2026
Bedford BC	Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	(i) - Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	25 June 2026
Braintree DC	No comments received	(i) No comments received	N/A (Issued by GCSP- 8 June 2026)
Central Bedfordshire	Agreed subject to amendments (not confirmed)	N/A	2 July 2026
East Cambridgeshire DC	Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	(i) - Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	26 June 2026
Essex CC	Comments received, amendments proposed (amendments not confirmed)	N/A	24 June 2026
Huntingdonshire DC	Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	(i)-Agreed	24 July 2026

Relevant DtC bodies	Status of Statement of Common Ground	Status of Supplementary Statement of Common Ground(s)	Date of last correspondence (from relevant body)
North Herts DC	No comments received	(iii) - Agreed subject to amendments (not confirmed)	1 July 2026
Suffolk CC	Agreed	N/A	19 June 2026
Uttlesford DC	Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	(i) No comments received	25 June 2026
West Suffolk	Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	(i)- Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	3 July 2026
Environment Agency	Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	(iv) - Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed) (v)- Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	25 June 2026
National Highways	No comments received	(vii)- Agreed subject to amendments (not confirmed)	11 June 2026
Natural England	No comments received	(viii)- Agreed (Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	19 June 2026
Central East ICB	Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	N/A	1 July 2026
NESO	Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	N/A	15 June 2026
UKPN	Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	N/A	16 June 2026
Anglian Water	Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	(v)- Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	30 June 2026
Cambridge Water	Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	(iv)- Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	2 June 2026

Relevant DtC bodies	Status of Statement of Common Ground	Status of Supplementary Statement of Common Ground(s)	Date of last correspondence (from relevant body)
Cambridge Growth Company	N/A	(v)- Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed) (iv)- Agreed subject to amendments (confirmed)	22 June 2026

Key to Sup-SoCGs numerals:

(i) = Meeting sub-regional logistics needs, (ii) = Planning for growth, (iii) = Meeting sports need around Royston (iv) = Water supply, (v) = Waste water, (vi) Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy, (vii) Transport policy principles and site specific mitigations, (viii) Wildlife and habitats

2. Greater Cambridge Local Plan Statement of Consultation

2.1 The Statement of Consultation has been updated at each stage of the plan making process; the current version primarily reflects representations received at the previous Reg 18 Draft Plan consultation and supports the Proposed Submission stage (Regulation 19).

2.2 The approach to Local Plan consultation is based on the Councils' Statement of [Community Involvement](#). This sets out how and when we will involve the community and key stakeholders in preparing, altering and reviewing our plans and guidance for future development. It also explains how we will involve the community in planning applications.

2.3 The Statement of Consultation sets out how the Councils have, and continue to, undertake consultation in preparing the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. This includes events before and after the first formal consultation on the plan, as well as details of the previous formal consultations known as The First Conversation, The First Proposals and the Draft Local Plan Consultation. The Statement summarises comments received to date and how we have taken this into account in developing the proposed submission Local Plan.

3. Greater Cambridge Authority Monitoring Report

3.1 The [Greater Cambridge Authority Monitoring Report](#) (AMR) provides an additional ongoing record of duty to cooperate activity across the two councils in line with Planning Practice Guidance, which outlines that LPAs must publish information at least annually that reports any activity relating to the duty to cooperate. The last AMR was published in February 2026..

4. The Local Context

4.1 Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have worked together to create a joint Local Plan, covering the area known as Greater Cambridge. Greater Cambridge directly adjoins various local authority areas shown in the map in **Figure 1**. Cambridge, located around 60 miles north-east of London, has an area of approximately 4,070 hectares. Cambridge is encircled by South Cambridgeshire which covers an area of approximately 90,163 hectares.

4.2 Greater Cambridge is a two-tier area, with Cambridgeshire County Council providing many public services including education, highways and adult care. In addition, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough mayoral Combined Authority has responsibilities for local transport policy among other roles.



Figure 1: Strategic context – adjacent local authorities

4.3 In December 2024, the Ministry and Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) set out plans to move towards a new system of local government, abolishing all ‘two-tier’ areas in England. That means that the seven Cambridgeshire councils could be replaced by a smaller number of new

unitary authorities. The creation of a Greater Cambridge unitary authority has been identified as the Councils' [preferred option for the Local Government Reorganisation \(LGR\)](#). This option would mean the creation of two new unitary councils for Cambridgeshire: one for Greater Cambridge (Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire) and one for North Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdon and Peterborough). All shortlisted options include South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City within the same unitary authority. The final decisions on which new local government structures are put into place in Cambridgeshire will ultimately be made by central government and it is expected they will announce the outcome in July 2026.

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5. Relevant bodies

5.1 The previous [Draft Plan Duty to Cooperate Compliance Statement](#) (October 2025) set out the list of neighbouring local authorities and county councils, as well as the prescribed bodies, that the Councils were considered to have a duty to cooperate with (as per the now removed Duty to Cooperate)⁴ in the context of Greater Cambridge.

5.2 While LPAs are no longer under a legal DtC with each other, there is still a clear requirement in national policy to demonstrate effective co-operation with neighbouring authorities and other bodies on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries. These bodies in the Greater Cambridge context are:

Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities and County Councils and, other Relevant Local Planning Authorities:

- Braintree District Council
- Bedford Borough Council⁵
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Central Bedfordshire Council
- East Cambridgeshire District Council
- Essex County Council
- Fenland District Council
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Huntingdonshire District Council
- North Hertfordshire District Council
- Peterborough City Council
- Suffolk County Council
- Uttlesford District Council
- West Suffolk Council

Other Relevant Bodies:

- Anglian Water

⁴ The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (later amended by the Localism Act) set out a duty to co-operate in relation to planning for sustainable development. It placed a legal duty on local planning authorities to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of local plan preparation relating to strategic cross boundary matters

⁵ While not strictly an immediate neighbour of Greater Cambridge, Bedford Borough is in very close proximity and has a strong functional relationship with the area

- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (Local Transport Authority; responsibility to prepare a Non-Statutory Strategic Spatial Framework and will in future prepare a Spatial Development Strategy; responsibilities for funding including: Housing Investment Fund, Single Pot Infrastructure Fund, and Adult Education Budget)
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Joint Health and Wellbeing and Integrated Partnership
- Central East Integrated Care Board (as of April 2026)
- Cambridge Water
- Cambridge Water Scarcity Group (members comprise the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government, the Department for Environment Farming and Rural Affairs, the Environment Agency, Cambridge Water, Anglian Water, Water Resources East, Homes England, Cambridge Growth Company and the Councils)
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Homes England
- Mayor of London
- National Gas
- National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)
- National Highways
- Natural Cambridgeshire (Local Nature Partnership)
- Natural England
- Office of Rail and Road (previously Office of Rail Regulation)
- UK Power Networks Distribution System Operator (UKPN DSO)

5.3 Previous Duty to co-operate bodies which were previously defined in the regulations, but which are not considered to apply in the context of Greater Cambridge are:

- Marine Management Organisation
- Coal Authority
- Transport for London

5.4 Those bodies who have been contacted by the Councils on an ongoing basis throughout the Greater Cambridge Local Plan making process, but who have not

provided comment through representations to consultation stages of the plan and with whom strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries have not been identified are:

- Civil Aviation Authority
- Homes England
- Mayor of London
- National Gas (no response received or representation received to draft plan consultation)
- Office of Rail and Road (previously Office of Rail Regulation)

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6. Overview of Duty to Cooperate engagement

Engagement between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council

6.1 The agreement to prepare a statutory joint local plan between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council fundamentally reflects the cooperation across the authorities' shared geography of Greater Cambridge. This agreement is underpinned by the geographical and functional relationship between the two authorities' administrative areas and the common strategic issues that need to be addressed. Preparation of an extensive joint evidence base informing the strategy and policies included in the plan is clear evidence of the cooperation and engagement between the Councils being implemented in practice. This Statement of Compliance does not document all the details of joint working and engagement in this regard, as these are evident from all the studies and related documentation supporting the plan. It focuses instead on strategic matters and issues and engagement with the other relevant bodies identified in Section 2.

Engagement with other bodies

6.2 Greater Cambridge has undertaken a wide range of engagement, discussion and joint working with local authorities and other relevant bodies to ensure that there has been a high level of cooperation in the preparation of the Local Plan.

6.3 A series of consultation and engagement activities have underpinned the work leading up to this Proposed Submission Plan stage. Several bodies have engaged in these (in their roles as prescribed bodies under the previous DtC requirements) or due to their wider interest in future growth in the area. These consultation and engagement activities are documented in detail in the separate Consultation Statement, but in summary they comprise:

- **2019:** Preliminary engagement before Issues and Options consultation
- **January-February 2020:** First Conversation (Regulation 18 Issues and Options consultation)
- **December 2020- Spring 2021:** Further engagement before First Proposals consultation (Regulation 18 Preferred Option Consultation)
- **Summer 2021-Summer 2025:** Further engagement before Regulation 18 Draft Plan consultation
- **December 2025- January 2026:** Regulation 18 Draft Plan consultation
- **January 2026-June 2026:** Engagement after the Draft Plan consultation on representation made, site specific matters and updated evidence

6.4 This version of the statement includes details of meetings that have taken place

after the Draft Plan consultation and prior to the Proposed Submission Plan Consultation (these are recorded in Appendix 2).

Framework of engagement with local authorities and other public organisations

- 6.5 Cooperation has taken place within a wider framework which has evolved over the plan-making process reflecting specific strategic cross boundary issues that the Councils and other authorities and bodies have needed to address. The detailed discussions and meetings that took place with the duty to cooperate bodies (and others prescribed bodies) prior to the First Proposals are available on the Greater Cambridge Planning website (see [the Statement of Compliance published with the First Proposal Consultation](#)). The detailed discussions and meetings that took place with the duty to cooperate bodies (and others prescribed bodies) prior to the Draft Plan Consultation are available on the Greater Cambridge Planning website (see [the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan: Duty to Cooperate - Statement of Compliance \(2025\)](#)).
- 6.6 Since the Draft Plan consultation, the Councils have engaged with relevant bodies through bilateral and working group meetings, focused on specific strategic cross-boundary matters arising from representations made to the draft local plan (site specific and thematic issues). Subsequent meetings have also been held for a variety of purposes, for example to agree future collaborative working, enter further, more detailed discussions on particular issues of concern etc. For details on when these meetings were held and further details of issues and matters discussed see Appendix 2.
- 6.7 Other wider meetings, drawing in a broader range of impact bodies, have also taken place as necessary to pick up themes with significant mutual interest; for example, in response to sub-regional logistics needs (an identified issue for a number of LPAs).
- 6.8 Where proposed allocations have been located in close to proximity to the edge of Greater Cambridge, potentially raising strategic cross-boundary issues, or the proposed allocation text consulted on at Reg 18 Draft Plan stage have raised queries or concerns from other bodies in their statutory role, bilateral or wider round table meetings have been organised, or bodies have been invited to join existing working groups. For example, the proposed allocation at Grange Farm has necessitated extensive engagement with Natural England and Historic England, whereas the proposed Cambourne North allocation has necessitated close engagement with Natural England, Cambridgeshire County Council, the CPCA and neighboring authorities.
- 6.9 A range of other groups have supported ongoing cooperation between the Councils and other parties on strategic matters affecting the local plan including:
- 6.10 **Joint Local Planning Advisory Group:** The Councils set up the JLPAG in 2020 (renamed Joint Planning Advisory Group JPAG in 2025) to support the

development of a shared position for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan and also the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan. The Terms of Reference for JPAG, renewed in summer 2025 set out that it is a non decision-making joint member group intended to “enable and support the efficient and effective development and coordination of spatial planning and related policy for the Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire districts”. The Advisory Group includes a representative of Cambridgeshire County Council. Minutes of meetings held can be found on the JPAG agendas and minutes webpage.

- 6.11 Greater Cambridge Strategic Transport Officer Liaison Group:** The Greater Cambridge Strategic Transport Officer Liaison Group (previously named the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Transport Sub-Group) was set up to facilitate preparation of a robust Transport Evidence Base supporting the Greater Cambridge Local Plan; and to document input and engagement from the various transport-related agencies and authorities to the transport planning aspects of the Local Plan. The Strategic Transport Officer Liaison Group includes membership of the Councils, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (as the Local Transport Authority), Greater Cambridge Partnership, Cambridgeshire County Council (as the Local Highways Authority), National Highways, Network Rail and a standing invitation to attend for England’s Economic Heartland. The Group met between 2020 and 2023 on a six-weekly basis. Since the inception of work on the Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy in 2024 the Strategic Transport Officer Liaison Group has not met on a regular basis, noting that all Cambridgeshire partners are actively involved in the Transport Strategy work, and that officers from the Councils, Combined Authority and County Council have met every two weeks to discuss the development of Local Plan transport evidence. However, the Strategic Transport Officer Liaison Group was convened twice in May and July 2025 to enable engagement with National Highways and Network Rail regarding the Local Plan and Transport Strategy ahead of the draft plan consultation.
- 6.12 Cambridge Water Scarcity Group:** members comprise the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government, the Department for Environment Farming and Rural Affairs, the Environment Agency, Cambridge Water, Anglian Water, Water Resources East, Homes England and the Councils.
- 6.13 CPCA Transport Programme Board:** January 2026- with CPCA, Cambridge County Council, East Cambridgeshire DC and Huntingdonshire DC).
- 6.14** Council officers have also attended a range of other forums and meetings to ensure alignment and to facilitate collaborative working in regard to health infrastructure with other LPAs and with health bodies, including the CsaP Health in All Policies Workshop (January 2026), Cambridge & Ipswich CRP Meeting (December 2025) and Planning Policy Forum (December 2025).

7. Strategic cross-boundary matters

7.1 The Councils initial thinking on strategic matters of relevance to the Local Plan were consulted on as part of the First Conversation (Regulation 18 Issues and Options Consultation) at the beginning of 2020.

7.2 Further to this, relevant cross-boundary strategic matters were identified through a scoping exercise, which involved an assessment of all the strategic policies identified in the National Planning Policy Framework, together with commentary on why each topic might or might not constitute a strategic cross-boundary matter (as determined by legislation) relevant to Greater Cambridge.

7.3 As part of the first roundtable and first sequence of bilateral meetings, neighbouring local authorities and other prescribed duty to cooperate bodies were asked for their views on the identified strategic cross boundary matters.

7.4 The agreed strategic cross boundary matters for Greater Cambridge are as follows:

- Scale of growth, including housing need and employment (section A);
- Pattern of growth, including Green Belt and Strategic developments on the boundary of Greater Cambridge (section A);
- Delivery of growth, including land supply, water supply, and wastewater treatment (Section A);
- Gypsy & Traveller accommodation needs (section B);
- Transport infrastructure (section C);
- Wildlife habitats, green infrastructure and landscape (section D);
- Energy, carbon offsetting and renewable energy generation (section E);
- Social, health and community infrastructure (section F).
- Heritage (section G)

7.5 The sections below set out for each of the strategic matters:

- Context
- Relevant bodies
- Associated Supplementary Statement(s) of Common Ground (if applicable)
- Summary of responses to the Draft Plan consultation from relevant bodies (where substantive points of importance to the plan were made)
- Relevant evidence, including jointly prepared evidence
- Engagement ahead of Proposed Submission Plan consultation

- Current position

A) Strategy: pattern, scale and delivery of growth [Matters 1,2,3 within the Proposed Submission Plan Statement of Common Ground]

Context

- 7.6 National planning policy explicitly identifies the meeting of development needs as a strategic matter to be addressed in the Statement of Common Ground, particularly as choices about a potential spatial strategy to meet such needs may have implications for neighbouring areas.
- 7.7 In principle, the levels and location of housing and employment growth could have cross-boundary implications particularly due to the resulting commuting patterns.
- 7.8 Water issues are shaped by river basins which cross boundaries. Greater Cambridge is in a water-stressed area with low levels of rainfall. A particular challenge currently is the impact of water abstraction, including from development, on the chalk streams that supply the River Cam. The provision of an adequate and sustainable water supply, as well as wastewater treatment capacity, are cross-boundary issues that are central to the delivery of the development strategy.

Relevant bodies

- 7.9 The relevant bodies are as follows:
- Neighbouring local authorities
 - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority
 - Cambridgeshire County Council
 - Environment Agency
 - Natural England
 - Water Resources East (not a relevant body but central to the strategic cross-boundary matter)
 - Anglian Water (not a relevant body but central to the strategic cross-boundary matter)
 - Cambridge Water (not a relevant body but central to the strategic cross-boundary matter)

Associated Supplementary Statement(s) of Common Ground

- 7.10 The Councils have produced the following Supplementary Statements of

Common Ground (Sup-SoCG(s)) related to this matter:

- **Sup-SoCG Water supply (iv)**, which summarises early engagement with stakeholders (including the Environment Agency), sets out the evidence which has informed the plan and the current position. It agrees that the relevant parties have engaged on an on-going basis during the plan making process, that the plan has appropriately considered water supply issues and that the parties will continue to work together to coordinate and respond to water supply challenges of Greater Cambridge. The bodies involved include the Environment Agency, Cambridge Water, Anglian Water and MHCLG and DEFRA in their capacity as members of the water scarcity group.
- **Sup-SoCG Waste water (v)**, which summarises the current position, agrees that parties have engaged on an on-going basis during the plan making process and will continue to work together to ensure the necessary wastewater infrastructure is planned for and delivered in a timely manner to support planned development. The bodies involved are the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and Cambridge Growth Company (in their capacity as members if the Water Scarcity Group).
- **Sup-SoCG Meeting sub-regional logistics needs (i)**, which summarises the current position, that relevant authorities and the Councils are committed to liaising on future evidence bases for adjoining areas (to ensure alignment and consideration of functional market areas) and, that in the short term the Councils will engage with neighbouring authorities on an ongoing basis regarding needs and provision of warehousing and logistics serving national or regional markets. The bodies involved are Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority, Bedford Borough Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, North Hertfordshire District Council, Uttlesford District Council and West Suffolk District Council.
- **Sup-SoCG Planning for Growth (ii)**, sets out areas of agreement and disagreement and, sets out an action that the parties will continue to collaborate with all relevant partners to address infrastructure challenges and accelerate delivery on sites identified within the plan. This is a statement for which Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority is the only party involved.
- **Sup-SoCG Meeting sports need around Royston (iii)**, summarises recent issues and how the Councils have engaged on an ongoing basis with North Hertfordshire District Council throughout the preparation of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan (both on the matter set out in this Sup-SoCG and alongside other matters of shared relevance). This is a statement for which North Hertfordshire District Council is the only party involved.

Summary of responses to the Draft Plan Consultation from relevant bodies

- 7.11 Neighbouring authorities were generally supportive of the overall scale of growth proposed in the Draft Plan. Central Bedfordshire considered this level appropriate and endorsed the focus on sustainable locations with good public transport and access to services. Suffolk and Essex authorities emphasised the strong economic interrelationships across the wider sub-region, highlighting links to the Cambridge-Norwich Tech Corridor, western Essex innovation clusters, and the need for ongoing cross-boundary coordination.
- 7.12 Some concerns were raised that the scale of employment growth could impact neighbouring economies and that large strategic sites must be self-sufficient to avoid placing pressure on infrastructure and services beyond the plan area. In contrast, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority supported a higher growth scenario aligned with its economic ambitions, suggesting growth closer to 59,000 homes, subject to infrastructure delivery.
- 7.13 The Bedfordshire authorities stressed the importance of factoring in major external developments, including Universal Studios, new towns, and East West Rail, which are expected to significantly influence population, employment and transport patterns. They called for these impacts to be reflected in the evidence base before submission.
- 7.14 Statutory consultees broadly welcomed the Plan's sustainability ambitions but highlighted uncertainty around infrastructure capacity.
- 7.15 There was broad support for the Plan's vision-led approach, prioritising sustainable transport and key infrastructure such as East West Rail and busway improvements. However, cross-boundary transport impacts were a major concern. Authorities including Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire highlighted the cumulative effects of developments like Cambourne North alongside other significant neighbouring schemes, noting gaps in current transport modelling.
- 7.16 The East West Railway Company strongly supported the spatial strategy, particularly allocations at Cambourne North and Cambridge East, identifying them as highly sustainable locations for new stations. Meanwhile, Cambridgeshire County Council emphasised that deliverability will depend on robust transport strategies for major sites and alignment with wider transport programmes.
- 7.17 Cross-boundary connectivity was also emphasised by Essex and other authorities, who called for stronger recognition of links to key economic hubs such as London Stansted Airport. At the same time, infrastructure planning documents were considered to lack reference to some of these wider connections.
- 7.18 Environmental concerns were significant, particularly regarding impacts on designated habitats. Natural England and Cambridgeshire County Council raised

strong objections to aspects of the Cambourne North allocation, citing risks to ancient woodland and protected habitats, and recommending further ecological assessment and potential revision of site allocations.

- 7.19 Neighbouring authorities supported the principle that Greater Cambridge should meet its own housing and employment needs within its boundaries, alongside the strategy of directing development to sustainable locations. There was also broad agreement on aligning the phasing of growth with the delivery of critical water infrastructure.
- 7.20 Water supply emerged as a key strategic issue. Authorities and water companies recognised existing constraints and supported the Plan's reliance on future infrastructure such as the Fens Reservoir. However, concerns were raised about long-term capacity, particularly for growth beyond 2032, and about the need for stronger policy approaches to water resource protection.
- 7.21 Wastewater infrastructure was identified as a critical constraint. The Environment Agency highlighted that the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Works is already exceeding its permitted capacity and contributing to environmental harm. With plans for relocation currently stalled, the Agency advised strict controls on development occupation until sufficient capacity is secured.
- 7.22 There was support for a robust water efficiency policy of 80 litres per person per day from the Environment Agency, Natural England, Huntingdonshire District Council and Uttlesford District Council. Anglian Water and Cambridge Water also expressed support for high water efficiency standards, with Anglian Water encouraging the policy to go further for developments of fewer than 100 dwellings and referencing the Shared Standards. Cambridge Water noted that proposed growth to 2032 remains broadly consistent with their Water Resource Management Plan, while cautioning that the ability to accommodate elevated growth between 2032 and 2045 would be limited until the Fens Reservoir comes online, and confirmed it is currently restricting non-household connections to those below 20m³/day. Cambridgeshire County Council's Lead Local Flood Authority expressed broad support for the holistic approach taken to surface water management, SuDS, water quality, biodiversity and climate change, while recommending greater emphasis on watercourse management and maintenance, stronger promotion of above-ground open SuDS, and that the policies map be checked against the most up-to-date Environment Agency surface water flood risk mapping published in 2025

Relevant Evidence

- 7.23 The main relevant studies include:
- Greater Cambridge Local Plan: Employment & Housing Evidence Update 2025
 - Greater Cambridge Local Plan Transport Evidence Report 2025 (for sites)

- Greater Cambridge Housing & Employment Land Availability Assessment 2025
- Cambridge Area Water Supply Evidence Addendum (2026)
- Greater Cambridge Detailed Water Cycle Study Wastewater Addendum (2026)

Engagement ahead of Proposed Submission Plan consultation

7.24 Through both bilateral meetings and by written correspondence the Councils have discussed with relevant bodies the following strategic cross-boundary matters:

- Sites with cross-boundary implications
- Delivery of Growth
- Water supply and Wastewater capacity

Strategic developments on the boundary of Greater Cambridge

7.25 Ahead of the Draft plan the Councils engaged with relevant neighbouring authorities on sites proposed through the call for sites to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan process on or adjacent to South Cambridgeshire's boundary, in particular with North Hertfordshire District Council, noting three site submissions adjacent to Royston and a new settlement proposal at Ashwell and Morden very close to North Hertfordshire.

7.26 Noting that delivery of these sites would be dependent upon infrastructure within North Hertfordshire or else have significant impacts on that district, we engaged with North Hertfordshire District Council to confirm their in-principle view of development at these locations. Their letter responding to our request for comment following this engagement is at Appendix 1. The Councils actions in response to this engagement is set out in the Draft Plan Development Strategy Topic Paper.

7.27 Ahead of the Proposed Submission consultation the Councils continued to engage with North Hertfordshire District Council on the above issue as well as other relevant strategic matters. The position in relation to the site submissions referred to previously remains unchanged from that set out at Draft Plan. The parties also engaged regarding sports provision at Royston – a matter raised by North Hertfordshire in their Draft Plan response, which is the focus of Sup-SoGC (iii).

7.28 The Councils held further engagement with Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedford Borough Council and Huntingdonshire District Council via bilateral meetings regarding the proposed development at Cambourne North. These meetings continued to highlight transport as a significant cross-boundary matter in the context of several emerging strategic-scale developments in close

proximity to Greater Cambridge. These authorities were invited to join the Cambourne North Transport Modelling Group, where emerging outputs from the transport modelling and technical evidence being prepared to support the proposed allocation have been shared.

7.29 The Councils have engaged with West Suffolk Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council, who had expressed concerns that the level of growth planned at Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm, Cambridge East and Waterbeach (East Cambridgeshire only) allocations may lead to cross-boundary impacts. A bilateral meeting was also held with Uttlesford District Council where the Grange Fram and Wellcome Genome campus allocations were discussed.

Delivery of Growth

7.30 Since the First Proposals stage the Councils have engaged actively and over a sustained period to contribute to work addressing the area's water supply challenges, working alongside all relevant agencies and stakeholders as convened by the Cambridge Water Scarcity Group; (members comprise the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government, the Department for Environment Farming and Rural Affairs, the Environment Agency, Cambridge Water, Anglian Water, Water Resources East, Cambridge Growth Company and the Councils). Work has involved numerous meetings and sharing of evidence to identify shorter and longer term solutions.

7.31 Government announced in August 2025, shortly before publication of the draft Local Plan, that it would not be funding the relocation of the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant (CWWTP) through its Housing Infrastructure Fund. Wastewater has been discussed at numerous meetings with Anglian Water and the Environment Agency and the wider Water Scarcity Group members. Anglian Water and the Environment Agency have also fed into and reviewed the Detailed Water Cycle Strategy Wastewater Addendum (2026).

Current position

Scale of growth

7.32 The proposed submission plan consultation identifies that the Local Plan will meet the following objectively assessed needs for development in the period 2024-2045:

- 73,300 jobs
- 48,195 homes.

7.33 The objectively assessed needs are based on an understanding that the up to date Standard Method calculation outcome for Greater Cambridge supports the most likely jobs forecast for the area. This jobs forecast is primarily derived from

jobs that are specifically forecast to arise in the Greater Cambridge area. As such, these jobs are not expected to be drawn from outside the area and, it is considered unlikely that there are implications in terms of limiting employment growth in other districts. There are no cross-boundary implications currently arising from Greater Cambridge's housing needs. There is currently an outstanding disagreement with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority about the appropriate level of employment growth that should be planned for, reflecting the growth aspirations set out in their Local Growth Plan (see paragraph 8.13 of the main Statement of Common Ground).

Pattern of growth

Green Belt

- 7.34 There are no cross boundary issues currently arising from the preferred strategy with regard to the Green Belt (apart from those arising between Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, which will be fully addressed through the preparation of this joint plan).
- 7.35 Testing of options for the new local plan has included consideration of the role that land in the Cambridge Green Belt could play in a sustainable development strategy. A particular consideration was whether any exceptional circumstances exist that would necessitate a review of the defined Green Belt boundaries as part of the strategy for the new local plan. Therefore, in line with paragraph 147 of the National Planning Policy Framework, the Councils engaged with neighbouring authorities in bilateral meetings to raise the issue, and then via a letters (in both 2021 and again in June 2025) to ask if they could confirm whether there were any opportunities in their area that could accommodate any of the housing need identified in Greater Cambridge, and if so where these are, in order to inform consideration of any amendments to the Green Belt. All neighbouring authorities that responded to the June 2025 letter have not identified any opportunities in their areas to assist Greater Cambridge in meeting its needs (see Appendix 1).
- 7.36 As a result of the change in the Councils' position at the Draft Local Plan stage, whereby no allocations are proposed in the green belt to meet general development needs, it is no longer deemed that Green Belt should be considered a strategic cross-boundary matter, as all needs in Greater Cambridge can be met without the release of Green Belt. As a result, no statement of common ground has been prepared on this matter.

Strategic developments on the boundary of Greater Cambridge

- 7.37 The Councils consider the sites included within the proposed development strategy which have potential for substantive cross-boundary impacts are:
- Cambourne North: relating to transport impacts. Further potential

sensitivity testing to identify the extent of these potential impacts will be prepared as required ahead of Proposed Submission stage, working closely with Cambridgeshire County Council as the local highways authority and National Highways. , subject to the availability of sufficient data and information, to reassure that the in-combination effects of strategic developments on and nearby the western edge of Greater Cambridge can be accommodated on the highways network, including the Strategic Road Network, and the Councils are committed to ongoing engagement with neighbouring authorities around this.

- Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm: relating to transport impacts and potential impacts on social infrastructure (e.g. health, education) in adjoining authority areas. Further work has been undertaken through the Councils' Infrastructure Delivery Plan to articulate the infrastructure needed to meet infrastructure needs on-site, and the proposed allocation policy has been strengthened to ensure that such infrastructure is secured. This would by definition mitigate the potential cross-boundary impacts of the site. The Council are committed to ongoing dialogue with the affected authorities to ensure that any potential impacts are avoided or mitigated, as appropriate.
- Cambridge East: relating to transport impacts, which may impact the ability of residents of neighbouring authority areas to access essential services and amenities in Cambridge.
- Wellcome Genome Campus: relating to transport impacts on the Stump Cross interchange (M11 junction 9a).
- Waterbeach: relating to transport impacts on the A10.

7.38 The Councils were made aware of various strategic scale developments in Bedfordshire that may lead to cross-boundary impacts, in particular the planned Universal Studios development south of Bedford, which has been granted consent via a Special Development Order, Tempsford, which has been shortlisted by the government as a preferred location for a new town, and the renewal of Milton Keynes. At this time, the Councils are not aware of any other strategic scale developments formally proposed or supported by neighbouring authorities on or close to the boundary of Greater Cambridge that would lead to cross-boundary impacts.

Delivery of growth

Land supply

7.39 Sufficient development commitments and new sites exist to accommodate the identified development needs within Greater Cambridge without the need to request that one or more neighbouring authorities should assist under the duty to cooperate. Equally, to date no other local authority has asked the Councils to

meet any of their development needs.

Water, including supply, quality, wastewater and flood risk

Water supply

- 7.40 A range of measures are proposed to ensure an adequate and sustainable water supply. In the shorter term, a range of measures are being implemented to improve the efficiency of how water is used. In the medium term to support delivery of the sites in the emerging plan, a pipeline connection to Grafham Water will boost supplies to the Cambridge area from 2032, and the Fens Reservoir will further increase supplies from the mid 2030's. The Proposed Submission Local Plan responds to the issue via the phasing of development and by including policies that would require new developments to have a level of water efficiency beyond national levels. Cambridge Water Company adopted their new Water Resources Management Plan in spring 2025, and this will be reviewed every 5 years. The Regional Water Plan identifies that in the longer term, into the 2040's and beyond, adaptive approaches and new infrastructure such as desalination will need to be applied to ensure there continues to be water available to meet needs whilst protecting the environment.
- 7.41 The Councils have produced a Statement of Common Ground in relation to water supply which summarises the current position, agrees that parties have engaged on an on-going basis during the plan making process and will continue to work together to coordinate and respond to the water supply challenges of Greater Cambridge. The parties involved and who will be invited to sign at submission stage are the Environment Agency, Cambridge Water, Anglian Water, Water Resources East and Cambridge Growth Company, in their capacity as members of the Water Scarcity Group.

Wastewater treatment

- 7.42 The Government's announcement in August 2025 that it would not be funding the relocation of the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant (CWWTP), led to uncertainty regarding the programme for future wastewater treatment serving Cambridge. Anglian Water have confirmed that wastewater treatment will be focused on the current Cambridge site and they have produced a two-stage Feasibility Study to identify works required in the immediate and short-term, to meet current growth and compliance at the works; as well as long-term growth needs. Anglian Water are currently preparing the next iteration of the Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP28) and through this process will be engaging with the Councils to ensure that this takes into account the quantum of growth proposed in the Local Plan.
- 7.43 The Councils have produced a Statement of Common Ground in relation to wastewater treatment which summarises the current position, agrees that parties have engaged on an on-going basis during the plan making process and will

continue to work together to ensure that wastewater infrastructure capacity is planned for and delivered in a timely manner to support development. The parties involved and who will be invited to sign at submission stage are the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and Cambridge Growth Company, in their capacity as members of the Water Scarcity Group.

Summary

7.44 Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council agree on the approach to the strategy, and there are no areas of disagreement with other parties on this strategic matter. The authorities will continue to engage with neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies regarding the strategy in the period leading up to the Proposed Submission stage.

DRAFT

Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs [Matter 1c within the Proposed Submission Plan Statement of Common Ground]

Context

7.45 By definition, Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs are a strategic matter crossing administrative boundaries.

Relevant bodies

7.46 All Neighbouring Authorities.

Associated Supplementary Statement(s) of Common Ground

7.47 Not applicable.

Summary of responses to the draft plan consultation from duty to cooperate bodies

- 7.48 Cambridgeshire County Council's Public Health team recommended that Gypsy and Traveller sites be located within 1.5 miles of a primary school and 2 miles of a GP surgery, that pitch size facilitates good quality accommodation with adequate play provision, and that the health and safety of occupants is not put at risk from poor air quality, noise, contamination or flood risk, reflecting the broader principle that there should be no inequalities for these communities in access to education, health services and safe living conditions.
- 7.49 Central Bedfordshire Council comments that the plan is likely to provide over and above the identified need within the plan period. Historic England welcomes criterion 1g in Policy H/GT. The Environment Agency comments that the policy should set out that any proposals for new Gypsy and Traveller pitches must not be located within Flood Zone 3 as it is a 'highly vulnerable' use in the NPPF and PPG for Flood Risk and Coastal Change.
- 7.50 The East West Rail Company (EWR) noted that a small area of land within the Chesterton Fen Road Gypsy and Traveller site (Policy S/AMC/GT) is required for railway infrastructure works for EWR, and requested that the draft policy be amended to ensure that development proposals do not conflict with or prejudice the delivery of EWR proposals within the limits of land subject to the Safeguarding Directions given by the Secretary of State for Transport in November 2025. Cambridgeshire County Council's Minerals and Waste Planning Authority separately noted that the Chesterton Fen Road site is partly located within the consultation area for the Cambridge Northern Fringe Aggregates Railheads and the Cambridge North Water Recycling Centre, and requested that an additional criterion be added to Policy S/AMC/GT requiring proposals to demonstrate compatibility with those existing uses and compliance with Policy 16 of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Relevant Evidence

- 7.51 Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have prepared a joint Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for Greater Cambridge. As part of the process, all neighbouring local authorities were consulted. The [Assessment](#) was published in September 2024. An [Addendum report](#) was published in November 2025 to extend the period of need considered up to 2045 to match the revised end period of the draft Local Plan.
- 7.52 The identified need across Greater Cambridge for the plan period (2024-2045) is 157 pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and 20 plots for Travelling Showpeople (Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment for Greater Cambridge Addendum November 2025).

Engagement ahead of Proposed Submission Plan consultation

- 7.53 The Councils are proposing to meet the identified accommodation needs within Greater Cambridge for Gypsies, Travellers, Travelling Showpeople and Bargee Travellers and other caravan and houseboat dwellers in full. The Councils have not therefore specifically engaged with neighbouring local authorities on how to meet their need for Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots ahead of the draft plan. However, officers have responded to requests from consultants carrying out Accommodation Needs Assessments for neighbouring local authorities for thoughts on Gypsy and Traveller needs in the area, and whether there are any cross-boundary issues.

Current position

- 7.54 The proposed Local Plan sets out a strategy to address needs within Greater Cambridge through a series of measures including making more productive use of existing sites, new sites for permanent pitches associated with 6 strategic development sites (Northstowe, Waterbeach New Town, Bourn Airfield New Village, Cambridge East (airport), Cambourne North and Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm) and the assessment of windfall sites through a criteria-based policy.
- 7.55 There are no areas of disagreement on this strategic matter.

B) Transport infrastructure [Matter 4a in the Proposed Submission Plan Statement of Common Ground]

Context

7.56 The scale of the Cambridge Travel to Work Area and congestion on rail and road routes within and crossing the boundaries of Greater Cambridge make transport a strategic cross-boundary issue. The Councils are active partners to various transport policy programmes led by the Combined Authority, including the Local Transport Plan. There are also a number of strategic transport infrastructure projects proposed in the area which will cross the boundaries of Greater Cambridge, including in particular East West Rail.

Relevant bodies

7.57 Neighbouring districts and County Councils

- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority – as the Local Transport Authority
- Cambridgeshire County Council – as the Local Highway Authority
- National Highways
- East West Rail Company

7.58 Greater Cambridge Partnership (whose membership includes other duty to cooperate partners).

- Network Rail (*other body supporting cooperation)

Associated Supplementary Statement(s) of Common Ground

7.59 The Councils have produced the following Sup-SoCG(s) related to this matter:

- **Sup-SoCG Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy (vi)**, which sets out the current position of the Councils, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority on the Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy (GCTS). This is a statement for which Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority is the only party involved.
- **Sup-SoCG Transport policy principles and site specific mitigations (vii)**, which sets out the overarching approach to demonstrating that the development strategy and proposed strategic site allocations can be accommodated on the transport network. The bodies involved are Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority and National Highways.

Summary of responses to the draft plan consultation from duty to cooperate bodies

- 7.60 Cambridgeshire County Council broadly supported the transport strategy but stressed the need for detailed mitigation measures at all strategic sites, including enforceable trip budgets. It also called for stronger safeguarding of major transport schemes and better integration with emerging regional transport strategies.
- 7.61 National Highways raised significant concerns about the impact of major allocations on the Strategic Road Network. In particular, Cambourne North and Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm were identified as likely to generate unacceptable impacts without substantial mitigation, while Cambridge East was considered more manageable subject to further assessment. They noted that it could not yet confirm whether the Strategic Road Network could accommodate the proposed growth, emphasising the need for further evidence and identifying funding challenges for required upgrades.
- 7.62 Cross-boundary transport effects were a key issue. Authorities highlighted that existing modelling does not account for major external developments such as Universal Studios and proposed new towns, and called for improved coordination to ensure cumulative impacts are properly assessed.
- 7.63 EWR Co requested that the policies map be updated to reflect the Safeguarding Directions issued in November 2025, and that a number of allocation policies be amended to require development not to conflict with or prejudice EWR delivery. Essex County Council additionally requested that Policy I/SI be amended to include Air Safety Safeguarding Zones for cross-boundary aerodromes — namely London Stansted Airport and Carver Barracks Military Aerodrome within Uttlesford — drawing attention to the approach taken in the recently examined Uttlesford Local Plan and its Main Modifications.

Evidence

- 7.64 The main relevant studies include:
- Greater Cambridge Local Plan Transport Evidence Report 2025
 - Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan: New Strategic Allocations Assessment Transport Mitigation Measures 2025
 - Draft interim Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy 2026

Engagement ahead of Proposed Submission Plan consultation

- 7.65 The Councils are fulfilling their duty to cooperate role in part as active partners in the development of transport evidence studies, strategies and infrastructure projects within and beyond the boundaries of Greater Cambridge, including:
- **Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy** (working with Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, Cambridgeshire County Council, the

Greater Cambridge Partnership and Cambridge Growth Company)

- **East West Rail Central Section proposals** (working with East West Rail Company, East West Rail Mainline Partnership, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, Cambridgeshire County Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council) – the Councils continue to work with local partners Cambridgeshire County Council to provide aligned inputs to the East West Rail project.
- **East West Rail Eastern Section** (working with Cambridgeshire County Council and local authority partners in Norfolk and Suffolk) – the Councils continue to engage with partners in advocating for enhancements to rail services into Cambridge from the east.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan site assessments

7.66 Through the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) process, the Councils engaged with Cambridgeshire County Council as Local Highways Authority to understand the impacts on the local road network of sites submitted via the call for sites. As part of the same process, the Councils engaged with National Highways to understand, at a strategic level, the possible implications on the strategic road network for development across different areas of the districts. This engagement confirmed a zonal led approach based on existing trunk road and junction capacity. Each site considered through the HELAA was reviewed against the zone it was located.

Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy

7.67 For the Proposed Submission Plan, the Councils have engaged extensively with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority as Local Transport Authority and Cambridgeshire County Council as Local Highways Authority, and have engaged with other bodies as relevant including National Highways, to form a shared understanding of strategic transport matters relevant to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan as described below.

7.68 Of note, the draft interim Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy recently published by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, includes the mitigation and infrastructure requirements necessary to promote sustainable travel as part of the Local Plan development strategy. The foundations for the Transport Strategy are improvements to key corridors, that will provide significant transport capacity to support the delivery of committed development. The Councils are working alongside the Combined Authority, County Council and Greater Cambridge Partnership to support the further development of the Transport Strategy and to support the delivery of appropriate schemes.

Current position

- 7.69 The transport evidence supporting the Proposed Submission Plan development strategy identifies the additional site-specific mitigation and infrastructure required to enable delivery of the new sites included within the development strategy (Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan: New Strategic Allocations Assessment Transport Mitigation Measures, as updated in the Local Plan Infrastructure Delivery Plan). These are agreed by the relevant Duty to Cooperate partners. The interim draft Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy draws on this understanding, but also identifies interventions to address strategic transport issues, including the connectivity challenges associated with congestion in Cambridge.
- 7.70 As at Regulation 19 Proposed Submission stage, a draft interim GCTS has been published by the CPCA. This was considered at the CPCA's Transport Committee on 17 June 2026 where Members agreed to "Recommend to the Combined Authority Board to approve the [accompanying] interim technical report prepared by Steer as the agreed interim strategic position for the emerging GCTS, recognising that further work will be required in the lead-up to completion in November 2026".
- 7.71 At the time of writing the draft interim GCTS is due to be approved at its the CPCA Board on 15 July 2026. The draft interim GCTS sets out proposed solutions to address the connectivity needs of Greater Cambridge City Centre, and also all other strategic transport schemes required to deliver the strategic sites identified in the Local Plan development strategy, based on expert transport planning judgement. As such the draft interim GCTS provides sufficient proportionate evidence at this Regulation 19 stage to support the delivery of the sites within the strategy. The CPCA is committed to approving a final GCTS in November 2026 to support the submission of the Local Plan for examination in December 2026, in line with the Councils' adopted Local Development Scheme.
- 7.72 In summary, all relevant parties are committed to further collaboration and engagement to support the completion of the Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy to support the submission of the Local Plan; as such there are no areas of disagreement on this strategic matter.

C) Wildlife habitats, green infrastructure and landscape [Matter 5 within the Proposed Submission Plan Statement of Common Ground]

Context

7.73 Wildlife and the natural environment do not adhere to administrative boundaries. It is therefore important to consider how matters relating to wildlife habitats, green infrastructure and landscape will effectively be planned for across boundaries. These matters have been addressed through meetings with relevant bodies and involving these bodies in the process of preparing the evidence base which has informed the plan.

Relevant bodies

- Natural Cambridgeshire (Local Nature Partnership)
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Neighbouring authorities

Associated Supplementary Statement(s) of Common Ground

7.74 The Councils have produced the following Sup-SoCG(s) related to this matter:

- **Sup-SoCG Wildlife and Habitats (x)** which sets out an agreed position with Natural England on plan-wide approaches to biodiversity net gain, Accessible Green Space standards, Habitats sites and SSSIs, drawing on the ongoing engagement through the plan process. It confirms agreement that the parties will collaborate as proposals for the sites included within the plan are developed towards application and delivery stages. This is a statement for which Natural England is the only party involved.

Summary of responses to the draft plan consultation from duty to cooperate bodies

7.75 Natural England expressed broad support for the Plan's environmental ambition, welcoming the vision for a significant decrease in climate and environmental impacts and an increase in the network of nature, wildlife and multifunctional green spaces. Natural England supported biodiversity-positive measures such as dark corridors, water efficiency, nature-based drainage and high-quality multifunctional green infrastructure across a number of policies, commending in particular the detailed ecological provisions in the Cambourne

North allocation for the careful consideration given to dark corridors to protect bat habitats associated with Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. However, Natural England raised significant concerns about the adequacy of accessible semi-natural greenspace proposed for some sites, advising that Cambourne North currently proposes only 60 hectares of semi-natural greenspace against a minimum standard requirement of 93.6 hectares, and that Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm would require a minimum of 43.2 hectares of semi-natural greenspace for a development of 6,000 homes.

- 7.76 However, concerns were raised about the adequacy of green space provision in some major allocations. For example, Cambourne North and Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm were identified as falling short of minimum requirements for accessible semi-natural greenspace.
- 7.77 Significant ecological concerns were raised about Cambourne North, particularly its potential impact on ancient woodland and protected habitats. Cambridgeshire County Council questioned whether the allocation complies with sustainability principles and recommended further ecological work and possible revisions.
- 7.78 Natural England also highlighted deficiencies in the Habitats Regulations Assessment, particularly regarding water quality impacts and buffer zones. Consultees recommended updating methodologies and aligning with emerging habitat protection frameworks and Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- 7.79 The Environment Agency provided positive recognition of biodiversity and green/blue infrastructure policies, supporting requirements for long-term habitat management, native species planting, nature-based drainage and groundwater protection, while recommending stronger and more consistent language on flood risk management. Suffolk County Council encouraged that the Local Nature Recovery Strategy be referenced within Policy BG/GI, and that the mitigation hierarchy in Policy BG/BG be strengthened to explicitly include compensation. Essex County Council drew attention to the Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy, recommending that any cross-boundary matters be appropriately considered and addressed in the emerging Plan.

Evidence

- 7.80 The main relevant studies include:
- Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping Recommendations Report (2020 and 2021)
 - Greater Cambridge Detailed Water Cycle Study (2025) and the Wastewater Addendum (2026)
 - Greater Cambridge Local Plan Habitat Regulations Assessment 2026
 - Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Strategy Emerging Approach Report (2025)

- Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Standards Report 2026

Engagement ahead of Proposed Submission Plan consultation

- 7.81 There has been further engagement between the Councils and Natural England between the draft plan and proposed submission stages, in particular focusing on green infrastructure standards and the Green Infrastructure Standards report (2026), the approach to Habitats Regulations Assessment, and, in relation to strategic sites and other Biodiversity and Green Spaces theme policies.
- 7.82 Since the draft plan consultation, the councils have continued regular engagement with Natural Cambridgeshire (Local Nature Partnership) through officer attendance at both the Natural Environment Policy & Planning Forum meetings and the LNRS strategy group.

Current position

- 7.83 There is broad support from the relevant bodies to the overarching approach taken towards green infrastructure and biodiversity in the Plan, noting in particular that the Proposed Submission Plan aligns well with the final Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (see Biodiversity and Green Spaces Topic Paper Appendix 1: How the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan has regard to the Cambridge and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy explanatory note- update June 2026). See also previously under Strategy: Water which addresses the impact of water abstraction on chalk streams. The Councils consider there to be no areas of disagreement on these aspects of this strategic matter.
- 7.84 In relation to allocations with potential impacts to protected sites, the Proposed Submission Plan includes substantial amendments made since the Draft Plan stage to more fully avoid and mitigate such these. The Councils will engage further with Natural England and all other relevant bodies as proposals for the sites included within the plan are developed towards application and delivery stages. Statement/s of Common Ground specifically relating to these allocations may be prepared ahead of submission of the Local Plan for Examination.

D) Energy, carbon offsetting and renewable energy generation [Matter 6 in the Proposed Submission Plan Statement of Common Ground]

Context

7.85 The current electricity grid infrastructure affects supply across administrative boundaries. Future energy capacity is also an issue noting the scale of growth envisaged in the Local Plan which will require future improvements to ensure there is enough capacity in the grid and costings. Carbon offsetting might best be done at a wider than Greater Cambridge level, on the basis that there may be better opportunities to offset if considered over a wider area.

Relevant bodies

- UK Power Networks Distribution System Operator (UKPN DSO)
- National Energy Systems Operator (NESO)
- Greater Cambridge Partnership
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Neighbouring Authorities

Associated Supplementary Statement(s) of Common Ground

7.86 Not applicable.

Summary of responses to the draft plan consultation from duty to cooperate bodies

7.87 Historic England expressed qualified support for the inclusion of a renewable energy policy while raising concerns about the approach to heritage assessment at the strategic scale, emphasising the need for strong caveats and clarity on what further heritage assessment will be required at planning application stage, and recommending changes to policy wording and the policies map to ensure greater clarity and robustness.

7.88 Natural England raised specific concerns about the treatment of peat soils in relation to renewable energy development, advising that solar proposals on peat-based land should only be approved where they form part of a well-researched wider scheme to protect or enhance the carbon sink, with strong fire prevention measures, noting the considerable fire hazard posed by solar farm infrastructure on peat where fires can burn underground and spread undetected.

7.89 The CPCA raised concerns about Policy J/AL relating to the best agricultural land, arguing that solar farms permitted on high quality agricultural land should be treated as a permanent land use change rather than a temporary one.

7.90 The Ministry of Defence (MOD), represented by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation Safeguarding Team, welcomed the provision within Policy CC/RE requiring renewable and low-carbon energy proposals not to cause unacceptable impacts on aviation apparatus and air traffic safety, but requested that emerging policy make clear that, where a MOD assessment indicates a development would have a detrimental impact on the operation and capability of defence assets, such an application should be refused or conditions attached.

7.91 Essex County Council shared information on best practice in energy and climate change policy, drawing attention to the Essex Planning Officers Association's Planning Policy Statements on Operational Energy and Carbon and on Embodied Carbon and Circular Economy, and to the approach taken in the recently examined Uttlesford Local Plan. Essex recommended that Greater Cambridge consider requiring higher energy performance standards for new homes than those set in Building Regulations, going beyond the Future Homes Standard, noting that such policies are considered deliverable, flexible and viable, and help prevent the need for future retrofitting.

Evidence

7.92 The main relevant studies include:

- Cambridgeshire Local Area Energy Plan (March 2026)
- Greater Cambridge Net Zero Carbon evidence base, Bioregional (2021): [Net Zero Carbon – Offsetting \(2021\)](#)
- Phase 2 Local Area Energy Plan (Greater Cambridge) (2026)

Engagement ahead of Proposed Submission Plan consultation

7.93 The Councils engaged with the network systems operators (UKPN), neighbouring authorities and other relevant partners to ensure a coherent approach to energy and carbon issues within and outside Greater Cambridge, including involving these parties in the process of preparing the identified evidence base and through specific duty to cooperate meetings where appropriate. In particular, this included collaborating with relevant bodies on the Greater Cambridge Partnership's South Cambridge Future Electricity Demand project to support the delivery of new substation infrastructure in Cambridge East and Trumpington; and on the Net Zero Carbon evidence base, which is considering offsetting opportunities. The Councils have, and continue to, collaborate with Cambridgeshire County Council and neighbouring authorities to develop the Local Area Energy Plan, which will consider the energy requirements associated with growth and identify where new and/or reinforcement of existing infrastructure will be required.

Current position

7.94 The Councils are continuing to engage with UKPN, neighbouring authorities and other relevant partners on the Local Area Energy Plan as well as engaging with the National Energy Systems Operator (NESO) on the emerging Regional Energy Strategic Plan, which will help ensure that local areas get the energy infrastructure they need to meet local net zero and growth ambitions, and help communities to access reliable, clean and affordable energy.

DRAFT

E) Social, health and community infrastructure [Matter 4b in the Proposed Submission Plan Statement of Common Ground]

Context

7.95 Cambridge plays a sub-regional and regional role in terms of social, health and community infrastructure provision, as follows:

- **Education provision** – further education colleges in Cambridge attract students from a wide area beyond the boundaries of Greater Cambridge.
- **Health** – Located at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus in South West Cambridge, Addenbrooke’s Hospital and the Rosie Hospital serve a regional healthcare role, and Addenbrooke’s is also a leading national centre for specialist treatment for rare or complex conditions. Royal Papworth Hospital, the UK’s leading heart and lung hospital, moved to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus in 2019, adding to the concentration of health services and expertise located in Cambridge. The South Place Care Partnership also extends across the border into North Hertfordshire around Royston where facilities there meet the health needs of residents within South Cambridgeshire.
- **Cultural** – The range of museums, theatres and other performance venues in and around Cambridge form a significant cultural attraction drawing visitors from beyond the boundaries of Greater Cambridge.
- **Leisure and retail** – Cambridge is a sub-regional retail and leisure centre, driven in part by its role as a tourist destination and an internationally recognised place to study.
- **Tourism** – related to the above two points, Cambridge is a national and international visitor destination.

Relevant bodies

- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Joint Health and Wellbeing and, the Integrated Care Partnership Board
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care Board (which was amalgamated on the 1st April 2026 with two other ICBs to form the new ‘Central East Integrated Care Board’). A local South Place neighbourhood function, which includes Greater Cambridge, will remain within the new Integrated Care System structure.
- Cambridgeshire County Council (Libraries, Education, Social Services, Adult Care)

Associated Supplementary Statement(s) of Common Ground

7.96 Not applicable.

Summary of responses to the draft plan consultation from duty to cooperate bodies

- 7.97 Cambridgeshire County Council provided detailed input on social infrastructure, particularly education. It highlighted the need for significant new school provision, including special schools, and called for updated assessments to reflect demographic changes and increased childcare demand. The Council also supported more flexible approaches to community facilities, advocating for multi-use and co-located services, and earlier delivery through improved planning obligations. Lessons from previous developments highlighted the importance of timely infrastructure provision for community wellbeing.
- 7.98 On public health, the County Council supported the Plan's health-promoting policies but requested stricter controls on hot food takeaways near schools, inclusion of gambling and high fat, salt and sugar advertising in relevant policies, and stronger wording on pollution and access to health services. The County Council noted the projected 26% increase in residents aged 65+ by 2031 and recommended that Policy GP/QP be strengthened to include dementia-friendly design principles, and that sensory-inclusive design principles for neurodivergent people be incorporated into policies. Suffolk County Council supported the active travel provisions and accessible and adaptable housing standards in the Plan, and recommended that the link between active travel and improved physical and mental health, reduced health inequalities and the prevention of chronic disease be more explicitly articulated in the supporting text to Policy I/ST. Essex County Council welcomed the focus on healthy, sustainable and inclusive communities, drew attention to the Stansted Airport College as a cross-boundary training and education facility already accessed by Greater Cambridge residents, and requested that consideration be given to social inclusion and future education and training facilities in neighbouring authorities as part of the Plan's wider approach to wellbeing.
- 7.99 EWR Co made relevant contributions on social infrastructure, noting that EWR services stopping at Cambridge South station would significantly reduce travel times from Cambourne and Bedford, expanding the pool of people within commuting distance of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and supporting its vision as a globally significant centre of healthcare, research and innovation.

Evidence

- 7.100 An updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) has been produced to support the Proposed Submission Local Plan. This quantifies the needs for all types of infrastructure, including social, health and education, associated with the overall growth and specific allocations proposed in the plan. This has involved direct

engagement with a range of stakeholders and providers to ensure adequate provision has been planned for and alignment with their own corporate strategies and objectives. This includes Cambridgeshire County Council in its role as local education authority and NHS Property Services, who are representing key local healthcare commissioners and strategic planners, including the Central East Integrated Care Board and South Place Care Partnership.

7.101 A Retail and Leisure study has also been prepared, and a portfolio of studies on Community Infrastructure, Allotments and Food Growing Spaces and Burial Spaces has also been prepared to supplement the earlier Community Facilities Audit (May 2025). Interim outputs of these studies have been published to support the Regulation 19 consultation on the Proposed Submission Local Plan, with further work to be undertaken over Summer 2026 ahead of submission focused on the stewardship and delivery of assets.

Engagement ahead of Proposed Submission Plan consultation

7.102 The Councils continue to engage on health issues through meetings with relevant health bodies to facilitate alignment of planning with emerging health infrastructure strategies (notwithstanding that the NHS organisational structures remain subject to potential further change), and have engaged with the NHS to inform preparation of the most recent IDP. The Councils have worked closely with the Central East ICB (and its predecessor) to secure an extended commission for NHS Property services, to provide coordinated inputs on primary and secondary healthcare requirements across the local NHS trusts and commissioning bodies, including the South Place Care Partnership. An interim update has been provided to support the Greater Cambridge IDP (July 2026), and further work is planned during Summer 2026 to reflect emerging work on a new neighborhood model of service delivery.

7.103 The Councils have engaged with Cambridgeshire County Council to inform the preparation of the IDP with respect to its education and social infrastructure responsibilities. The Councils will engage further with relevant health bodies prior to the Submission stage.

Current position

7.104 Aside from ongoing discussions with the relevant health bodies on their future infrastructure needs, as addressed in the Statement of Common Ground Health chapter (Matter 4b), there are no further specific duty to cooperate issues arising in relation to social, health and community infrastructure that would require substantive discussion with relevant bodies. However, this issue will be kept under review.

F) Heritage [Matter 7 in the Proposed Submission Plan Statement of Common Ground]

Context

7.105 Greater Cambridge has a significant number of heritage assets, including some of national and international significance. The main cross-boundary implications arise from heritage assets likely to be affected by new allocations which fall within other districts. These are primarily between Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (for example a number of heritage assets within South Cambridgeshire could be affected by development within Cambridge) but could also be relevant to the boundary with neighbouring authorities.

Relevant bodies

- Historic England
- Cambridgeshire County Council- Historic Environment Team (HET)

Associated Supplementary Statement(s) of Common Ground

7.106 None.

Evidence

7.107 The main relevant studies include:

- Tall Buildings and Skyline Study and Strategy (2026)

7.108 Townscape Characterisation Study (2026)

7.109 A strategic Heritage Impact Assessment for Greater Cambridge, and site specific Heritage Impact Assessments for all allocations identified in the draft Local Plan, to understand the potential impacts of development on heritage assets, including across administrative boundaries. Strategic Heritage Impact Assessment has also been undertaken to inform the preferred broad location of growth for Cambourne North.

Summary of responses to the draft plan consultation from duty to cooperate bodies

7.110 Historic England welcomed the emerging plan and the considerable work undertaken to date, recognising the incorporation of many previous consultation comments and welcoming the comprehensive evidence base including strategic and site-specific heritage impact assessments, topic papers, the skyline and tall buildings strategy, the townscape characterisation study, and the landscape sensitivity assessment. Historic England identified five key issues to be

addressed before Regulation 19: site allocations policy wording, the historic environment policy section, tall buildings and the skyline, the approach to renewable energy schemes, and B8 employment uses along the A14. On site allocations, Historic England welcomed the preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments for many sites but identified a number, including Mill Lane, the New Museums Site, and several strategic allocations, where these are absent or require updating, and recommended that all site allocation policy wording be tightened to reference specific heritage assets, specify mitigation and enhancement measures identified through the HIAs, and incorporate concept diagrams illustrating key site considerations.

7.111 On tall buildings and the skyline, Historic England welcomed the inclusion of a dedicated policy and supporting evidence base but raised ongoing concerns about building heights in north-east Cambridge, particularly regarding impacts on views from Ditton Meadows and Conservation Areas, and about the proposed Cambridge Biomedical Campus extension to the south of Addenbrooke's. Historic England identified that the Skyline and Tall Buildings Baseline, Strategy and Guidance document does not address Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm, which it considered needs to be rectified prior to Regulation 19. Historic England noted that the relatively flat nature of the Greater Cambridge landscape means that tall building impacts can be felt over considerable distances, and that the semi-rural character of parts of Cambridge and the surrounding area is currently underplayed in policy.

Engagement ahead of Proposed Submission Plan consultation

7.112 The Councils have engaged with Historic England and HET through bilateral meetings and in evidence-gathering work to ensure appropriate mitigation of heritage impacts, including engagement on the preparation of site-specific Heritage Impact Assessment work and reviewing of draft documents at previous consultation stages. The methodology for the Heritage Impacts Assessments was shared and agreed with Historic England in advance of the work being prepared as well as draft outputs shared for review. A collaborative approach to the preparation of evidence and policy development has been undertaken.

Current position

7.113 Key issues arising are the proposed allocation at Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm and the impacts of the proposed allocation on the Scheduled Monuments and their setting. The Councils may consider preparing a Sup-SoCG to reflect the outcome of these discussions. Through engagement, other site-specific historic environment matters have been addressed or an agreed position has been reached. This includes updating site specific HIAs to address factual errors and awaiting the conclusion of on-going field studies before undertaking further evidence or listing reviews.

7.114 There are no strategic cross-boundary heritage matters arising. Potential

cross-boundary heritage impacts between Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire for sites close to this boundary have been addressed via site-specific Heritage Impact Assessments to inform the site selection and policy drafting process, in response to Historic England's request for these. Through the representations received at draft plan stage and on-going engagement with neighbouring authorities, Historic England and HET, no cross boundary heritage matters have been identified between South Cambridgeshire District Council and adjacent local planning authorities.

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8. Conclusion

8.1 This Statement of Compliance outlines the active and ongoing cooperation that has led up to and informed the Proposed Submission Greater Cambridge Local Plan. Cooperation will continue towards, up to and, after the consultation on the proposed submission plan. It will continue to be updated at each stage of the plan making process. Cooperation has involved relevant bodies, neighbouring authorities and other organisations relevant to the requirements under the duty to cooperate (notwithstanding the fact that the duty is no longer a procedural/legal requirement). This version of the Statement of Compliance demonstrates that the Councils have collaborated with relevant (and other) bodies across their boundaries, in line with the policies in the NPPF on maintaining effective co-operation.

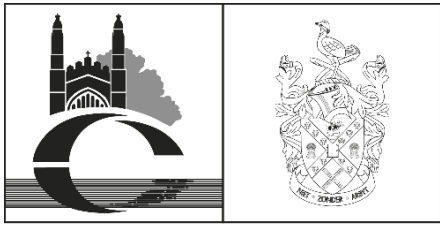
7. Appendices

Appendix 1: Letter regarding Green Belt and the Duty to Cooperate, and responses (sent prior to Greater Cambridge Draft Local Plan consultation)

Letter sent to neighbouring Local Planning Authorities (as attachment via email) on 4 June 2025

This letter was sent to:

- Central Bedfordshire Council
- Huntingdonshire District Council
- East Cambridgeshire District Council
- West Suffolk Council
- Braintree District Council
- Uttlesford District Council
- North Hertfordshire District Council



GREATER CAMBRIDGE SHARED PLANNING

South Cambridgeshire Hall
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne
Cambridge
CB23 6EA

www.scambs.gov.uk | www.cambridge.gov.uk

Team: Policy, Strategy and Economy
Contact: Stuart Morris
Direct dial: 01954 713694

Our ref: Green Belt and the Duty to Cooperate
04 June 2025

Dear x,

Greater Cambridge Local Plan – Green Belt and the Duty to Cooperate

As you know, we are in the process of preparing the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. Following the First Proposals consultation 2021 and Development Strategy Update 2023, we are now preparing to consult on a draft plan later this year.

The draft plan consultation will include a preferred strategy, and in weighing up the choices available we are looking at whether there may be exceptional circumstances justifying Green Belt release. NPPF paragraph 137 states that before concluding that exceptional circumstances exist, the planning authority should demonstrate it has examined fully all other reasonable options for meeting its identified need for development, including whether the strategy has been informed by discussions with neighbouring authorities about whether they could accommodate some of the identified need for development.

As such, ahead of the First Proposals consultation we asked you whether there were any opportunities in your area that could accommodate any of the housing need identified in Greater Cambridge, and if so where these were. Given the passage of time since 2021, and the need for us to confirm a preferred strategy at draft plan stage, we would be grateful if you could confirm your response to this question again. If we receive positive responses from you and/or the other neighbouring authorities we will consider whether the opportunities suggested could form an appropriate part of our strategy.

Beyond the above mentioned NPPF Green Belt requirements we are not currently aware of other reasons for asking our neighbours whether they could accommodate our needs. We will update you if this position changes.

It would be helpful if you could provide your response by Friday 20th June. Thank you in advance for your response.

If you have any queries please contact Stuart Morris (stuart.morris@greatercambridgeplanning.org).

Regards,

Stephen Kelly
(Joint Director for Planning and Economic Development)

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Responses

1. Huntingdonshire District Council

Date Response Received: 24 July 2025

Thank you for reaching out under the duty to cooperate regarding your preferred strategy choices and whether there might be exceptional circumstances justifying Green Belt release. I note that you are preparing a draft Local Plan for consultation this year and are enquiring about the possibility of Huntingdonshire accommodating some of Greater Cambridge's identified need for residential development in preference to releasing land from the Green Belt should this be necessary.

In response to your previous enquiry on this issue prior to your First Proposals consultation in 2021 we expressed our significant concerns over the prospect of looking to release land in Huntingdonshire to help meet the needs of Greater Cambridge. Since that point we have started work on preparing an update to our Local Plan and are currently working to produce a Preferred Options draft Local Plan for consultation before the end of this year. However, our concerns remain valid.

You have not supplied proposed housing numbers this time to ascertain whether you are simply looking to meet the standard method number of homes, or as previously, a number significantly higher than this. NPPF paragraphs 27 and 11b refer only to collaborating on meeting unmet need for development not that as a neighbouring authority we might be required to accept additional development under the duty to cooperate to assist with meeting a higher aspirational housing target.

If you have demonstrated that it is not possible to meet your minimum level of housing need without releasing land from the green belt, then Huntingdonshire would endeavour to assist you in meeting this minimum figure. However, I have significant concerns with Greater Cambridge seeking to divest any additional aspirational housing growth to Huntingdonshire rather than looking to release land from the green belt.

In particular, the implications are liable to be substantial of housing being decanted to Huntingdonshire, rather than provided on land within the green belt in terms of overall sustainability and CO₂ emissions arising from promoting commuting, This would conflict with the outcomes of your Net Zero Carbon Study

which sought to minimise commuting distances and reduce the ability of your local plan to contribute towards meeting national net zero aspirations.

As part of the preparation of our Local Plan update, we have undertaken two calls for sites which have identified a reasonable potential supply of land within Huntingdonshire. However, much of this is subject to significant infrastructure and flooding constraints and the majority of the housing numbers would be delivered on very large scale strategic sites which are expected to be subject to lengthy lead-in times for delivery.

As a result of the substantial recent increases to the standard method housing number for the district, it is anticipated that we will require all of the most sustainable and deliverable of the sites potentially available to us to achieve delivery of our own minimum housing expectations.

I consider that we would face significant challenges in making land available to take additional need arising from yourselves. Thus, only if you are unable to make provision for the minimum housing need figure for Greater Cambridge, rather than any higher aspirational target, would I support working further with yourselves to identify whether Huntingdonshire can make any land available to help meet your needs. Even in such circumstances I have doubts over our ability to provide adequate alternative land for you that could support sustainable development.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Bond
Planning Policy Team Leader

2. East Cambridgeshire District Council

Date Response Received: 19 June 2025

I refer to your letter, dated 4 June 2025, relating to the above matter.

We thank you for notifying us that you are expecting to consult on the emerging Greater Cambridge Joint Local Plan (under Regulation 18) later this year.

In February 2020, our former Strategic Planning Manager, confirmed to you in writing that East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) was not seeking to accommodate any unmet housing need from the Greater Cambridge area (should any unmet need arise).

I confirm this position remains the case today.

Yours sincerely

David Morren
Strategic Planning and Development Management

3. Uttlesford District Council

Date Response Received: 25 June 2025

Many thanks for your email.

Uttlesford are currently at Examination with their Local Plan 2021-2041 and are anticipating consulting on Main Modifications in early autumn this year. The emerging plan is being examined under the December 2023 NPPF and meets the identified housing needs in full, with suitable headroom.

The Council have made clear that it intends to start work on its next plan quickly, from 2026 onwards, and that this next plan will provide a more effective mechanism to consider more strategic, and longer-term matters, which could include giving consideration to the potential for larger standalone Garden Communities. However, it should be noted that the next plan may be prepared in parallel to a Spatial Development Strategy for Essex, which may have responsibility for apportioning housing needs and addressing any future replacement for the Duty-to-Cooperate.

I trust this is helpful.

Kind regards,
Andrew

Dr Andrew Maxted (MRTPI)

Interim Planning Policy Manager

4. North Hertfordshire District Council

Date Response Received: 30 July 2025

Thank you for your email and apologies for the delay in our response.

In your email of June 4 2025, you asked whether or not the Council would in principle be supportive of development at the following sites, submitted through the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Call for Sites:

8.2 47799: Land north of A505 Baldock Road, Royston

8.3 40106: Land to north and south of Ashwell Street, Bassingbourn-Cum-Kneesworth

- 40511: Land to east of A505 and south of A10, Melbourn

8.4 Ashwell and Morden Garden Town (additional site)

There are a number of issues of concern and/or where additional information would be required for the Council to fully consider the sites that have been put forward. At this stage, these are:

8.5 Impact on the A505 and wider highway network of additional traffic;

8.6 Impact on Baldock and Royston as the nearest existing centres;

8.7 Impact on local infrastructure, both structural and social, e.g education, water, health care, shops;

- Impact on Ashwell and surrounding rural communities of any potential relocation of the existing Ashwell & Morden Station;

8.8 (Linked to above) the extent to which these sites would be self-contained or be reliant on surrounding centres for facilities; any larger-scale sites should form a place / destination in their own right, with an appropriate range of supporting land uses rather than being residential urban extensions to Royston;

- The potential interrelationship of these sites with areas that may fall under consideration by North Herts in our own ongoing Local Plan review and / or wider joint work with surrounding authorities. This may include:
- Any sites or proposals which are predicated on the retention of Ashwell & Morden station in its current location; and / or
- Any sites or proposals adjoining our shared administrative boundaries which may merit joint consideration with land put forward in South Cambridgeshire;

8.9 The extent to which any sites might reasonably be considered as contributing towards development needs arising from North(ern) Hertfordshire given their geographical proximity and functional linkages to the area;

The extent to which any sites might reasonably contribute to, or help develop a planning or business case, for strategic infrastructure interventions in the broader

‘A505 corridor’;

8.10 The approach or views of both our authorities should any of the sites have also been submitted to, and subsequently be selected for further consideration by, the Government’s New Towns Task Force (or any similar / equivalent programme);

- There are areas of recreation space deficiency in Royston which might need to be considered when looking at open space requirements for these sites;

8.11 The majority of three of the sites (47799, 40106 and the Garden Town proposal) are within the 1.9km Zone of Influence for the Therfield Heath SSSI, with the peripheral parts of those sites and site 40511 all falling within the

5.8km Zone of Influence. We prepared the Therfield Heath Mitigation Strategy (THMS) to address the recreational impacts from the proposed development allocations in the North Herts Local Plan. The views of Natural England should be sought about these potential development sites, as there is no consideration of any development outside North Hertfordshire in the THMS; and

- Any other impacts arising from more detailed technical analysis of the sites such as (but not necessarily limited to) landscape, flooding, ecology, heritage etc.

In your email you asked whether we would confirm whether or not North Herts Council would, in principle be supportive of development in these locations. Given that there is very little supporting evidence for us to look at, at this point we would not be in a position to confirm our support for (or opposition to) development in these locations.

We welcome the opportunity for further discussion on these sites and / or consideration of the matters above should you be minded to progress any of the above sites for potential allocation through your emerging plan.

These are officer comments only and have not been subject to political input or approval at this stage.

Yours sincerely

Clare Skeels

Senior Planning Officer

On behalf of Rachael Rooney, Interim Strategic Planning Manager

5. Central Bedfordshire Council

Date Response Received: 5 June 2025

Thank you for your email and letter dated 4th June in relation to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, and specifically the Green Belt and the Duty to Cooperate.

Central Bedfordshire Council commenced a review of the adopted Local Plan (2015-2035) in January 2022, which concluded that due to the number of changes at both a national and local level, a full update to the Local Plan was necessary. The full update commenced in November 2023 and is currently ongoing. In February of this year, it was agreed at Full Council that the new Local Plan would cover the period 2025-2050.

Having undertaken a launch & early engagement, we have commissioned a number of evidence base studies to support the Local Plan, including a Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA), the initial findings of which suggest there will be a significant increase in the housing requirement for Central Bedfordshire.

We recently undertook a Call for Sites, which concluded in January 2025, and are now in the process of undertaking a robust site assessment process of the land submitted for our consideration. We have also commenced a review of the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Green Belt (a joint commission with Luton Council) - this study is however, still in the early stages having been delayed by the publication of the New NPPF in December 2024 and the subsequent announcement that further guidance on Green Belt and Grey Belt was to follow.

Given the likely increase in the annual housing requirement for Central Bedfordshire, and that we are yet to conclude our own site assessment process or Green Belt Review, we are unable to confirm at this stage if we will be able to meet our own identified needs and are therefore unable at this time to identify if there are any opportunities to accommodate any of the housing need identified in Greater Cambridge.

Yours sincerely,
Caroline Danby
Head of Strategic Growth

6. West Suffolk Council

No response was received.

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7. Braintree District Council

No response was received.

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Appendix 2: Record of relevant bodies meetings (between Draft Plan Consultation- 2025 and Proposed Submission Plan Consultation- 2026)

Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities and County Councils:

Bedford Borough Council

- 29 January 2026: respective Council's Local Plan, Sub Regional working, Strategic Cross Boundary matters- housing and economic growth targets, transport and movement (Temsford New Town and Universal), Water (including water scarcity and recycling), large scale warehousing and distribution hubs.

Central Bedfordshire District Council

- 9 February 2026: respective Council's Local Plans; Strategic Cross Boundary matters-strategy – employment; transport; sites with cross-boundary impacts, Cambourne, Tempsford New Town.

East Cambridgeshire District Council

- 8 January 2026: Respective Council's Local Plans, Strategic Cross Boundary matters

Huntingdonshire District Council

- 2 December 2025: respective Council's Local Plans; strategy – housing and employment; water supply and waste water; transport; green infrastructure; sites with cross-boundary impacts.
- 11 February 2026: respective Local Plan updates; Strategic Cross Boundary matters-strategy, employment; transport; sites with cross-boundary impacts; water; BNG; health.
- 3 March 2026 meeting to discuss water supply and wastewater.
- 16 June 2026 meeting to discuss Habitats Regulations Assessment, water supply and wastewater.

North Hertfordshire District Council

- 21 January 2026 (joint meeting Hertfordshire County Council): respective Council's Local Plans; Strategic Cross Boundary matters- transport, water (supply and waste water), infrastructure, EWR, Sites with cross-boundary implications (and site proposals submitted to the emerging Local Plan- Royston and Ashwell and Morden new town); sports and leisure.

- 14 April 2026: Discussion on submitted representations to the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan. Respective Council's Local Plans; Strategic Cross Boundary matters- overall spatial approach, cross boundary health and wellbeing objectives (Deficit of outdoor sports in Royston Area).
- 22 April 2026: Follow up meeting to 14 April meeting- Evidence/information on outdoor sports need.

Uttlesford District Council

- 12 February 2026: respective Council's Local Plans; Strategic Cross Boundary matters -settlement hierarchy and spatial strategy (strategic sites), Water (Supply and waste water), net zero carbon, Sites with cross-boundary implications (Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm, Wellcome Genome Campus), transport, government reorganisation.

West Suffolk District Council

- 26 January 2026: respective Council's Local Plans; Strategic Cross Boundary matters-meeting housing needs, employment, infrastructure, water (evidence), sub-regional logistics provision, Sites with cross-boundary implications (Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm).
- 5 March 2026: Discussion on submitted representations to the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan, matters for SoCG and cross boundary evidence.

NOTE: Greater Cambridge Shared Planning contacted Braintree District Council and Suffolk County Council by email on 22 December 2025 to offer to meet to discuss any specific strategic issues. Suffolk County Council replied that they would respond to pick up cross boundary points within their written representation to the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan Consultation. No response was received from Braintree District Council. Therefore, no meetings were held with either authority during the period between Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan 2025 and the start of the Greater Cambridge Proposed Submission Plan Consultation 2026.

Cambridgeshire County Council

- Biweekly meeting: Local Plan transport evidence and policy, including with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Greater Cambridge Partnership.
- Biweekly meeting: Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy officer group.
- 4 December 2025: Local Plan updates; strategy – housing and employment; transport; education; flooding; green infrastructure; infrastructure delivery plan; minerals and waste.
- 8 January 2026 (joint meeting with CPCA and National Highways): Local Plan

updates; strategy – housing and employment; strategic site allocations; transport; Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy updates

- 22 January 2026: County comments on draft plan, discussion of how/where to progress these issues; future work programme and collaboration.
- 23 February 2026 [County Archaeologist]: Skyline and Tall Buildings Strategy, Heritage Impact Assessments, Strategic allocations, Non-strategic allocations.
- 24 February 2026: overview of engagement since last meeting; matters of interest; strategy; transport; education; libraries; health; biodiversity; minerals and waste.
- 26 February 2026: A10 to A14 Improvements (also including CPCA)
- 3 March 2026, 22 April 2026 and 21 May 2026: Meeting on Health Infrastructure and wellbeing strategies/policies. This is a recurring and ongoing meeting primarily between neighbouring LPAs around information sharing, current health and wellbeing issues and matters. GCSP officers attend this meeting to provide updates on the plan making process for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan relating health and wellbeing policies.
- 18 March 2026: A10 Ely to A14 Improvement Project Board (also including CPCA)
- 16 January 2026: meeting with County Archaeologist- discussion on submitted representations to the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Hertfordshire County Council

- 21 January 2026 (joint meeting with North Hertfordshire District Council): respective Council's Local Plans; Strategic Cross Boundary matters- transport, water (supply and waste water), infrastructure, EWR, Sites with cross-boundary implications (and site proposals submitted to the emerging Local Plan- Royston and Ashwell and Morden new town); sports and leisure.

Other relevant bodies and bodies supporting cooperation:

Anglian Water

- Meetings on a six weekly basis as part of Cambridge Water Scarcity Group – see minutes: Cambridge Water Scarcity Group - Water Resources East.[16 December 2025, 5 February 2026, 22 April 2026, 9 June 2026]
- 3 December 2025, 26 March 2026, 8 May and 13 May 2026: meetings with Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and other Water Scarcity Group members to discuss latest wastewater updates, information for the update to the Water Cycle Study and proposed approach to Statement of Common Ground on wastewater.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

- Fortnightly meeting: Local Plan transport evidence and policy, including with Cambridgeshire County Council and Greater Cambridge Partnership.
- Fortnightly meeting: Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy officer group.
- 10 December 2025: respective Plan updates and areas of interest; strategy – housing and employment; transport; health; nature; energy; monitoring.
- 8 January 2026 (joint meeting with CCC and National Highways): Local Plan updates; strategy – housing and employment; strategic site allocations; transport; Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy updates
- 13 January 2026: respective Plan updates and areas of interest; strategy – housing and employment; transport; water; health; Duty to Cooperate update and future engagement.
- 17 February 2026: respective Plan updates and areas of interest; strategy – housing and employment; transport; skills.
- 10 March 2026: transport; SDS update.
- 10 March 2026: mobility hub strategy and draft local plan policies.

Cambridge Water

- Meetings on a six weekly basis as part of Cambridge Water Scarcity Group – see minutes: [Cambridge Water Scarcity Group - Water Resources East](#). Meeting dates: 16 December 2025, 5 February 2026, 22 April 2026, 9 June 2026.

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)

- Monthly coordination meetings (January-June 2026), covering ongoing joint working with CCC on transport, archaeology, nature and on the preparation of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

- Fortnightly meeting on Local Plan transport evidence and policy, including with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Greater Cambridge Partnership.
- 4 March 2026: Archaeology discussions on Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm, including geophysical survey results, treatment of barrows, listings review, treatment of northern boundary. Meeting also attended by the landowner and their technical consultants.

Environment Agency

- Meetings on a six weekly basis as part of Cambridge Water Scarcity Group – see minutes: [Cambridge Water Scarcity Group - Water Resources East](#)
Meeting Dates: 16 December 2025, 5 February 2026, 22 April 2026, 9 June 2026.
- 3 December 2025, 26 March 2026, 8 May and 13 May 2026: meetings with Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and other Water Scarcity Group members to discuss latest wastewater updates, information for the update to the Water Cycle Study and proposed approach to Statement of Common Ground on wastewater.
- 18 November 2025 (joint meeting with Natural England): approach to natural environment as part of strategy development and site selection, Water (supply and waste water management), plan-wide and cross boundary green infrastructure standards and delivery (including delivering on LNRS), site specific issues (focus on Cambourne North, Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm and Cambridge East).
- 15 January 2026: discussion on submitted representations to the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan. Strategic sites (North East Cambridge/WWTP), cross boundary WWTPs and need for cross boundary coordination with adjoining LPA around IDPs and need, Greater Cambridge Water Cycle Study, Cambridge Water Scarcity Group.
- 5 February 2026: CN GBI Technical Scoping workshop Stage 2 studies (details noted under CN Working Groups)

Historic England

- 12 November 2025: Heritage Listings (National Heritage designation areas)/ Archaeology (Cambourne East, Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm, Cambourne North), heritage policies, Skyline and Tall Buildings, Renewable energy, heritage policies, climate change, site allocations-HIAs, strategic enhancement areas, Warehousing, Distribution, and Other Strategic Needs.
- 14 January 2026: discussion on submitted representations to the Draft

Greater Cambridge Local Plan. Skyline and Tall Buildings, Renewable energy, heritage policies, climate change, site allocations-HIAs, strategic enhancement areas.

- 23 February 2026: Skyline and Tall Buildings Strategy, Heritage Impact Assessments, Strategic allocations, Non-strategic allocations.
- 18 March 2026: Site specific matters regarding archaeology and Scheduled Monuments, Desk Based Archaeology Assessments, HELAA assessments.
- 17 April 2026: Discussing representations received on Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm and feedback on evidence.

Homes England

- 26 March 2026: Northstowe allocation and review of Homes England representation.

Health Bodies: Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Joint Health and Wellbeing and Integrated Partnership and, Central East Integrated Care Board (as of April 2026)

- System Estates Group- GCSP officers attended meeting on 1 December 2025, 16 March 2026. This meeting was attended by the Cambridgeshire County Council and the C&P Integrated Care Board, NHS Property, ICB Estates, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Partnership, Cambridgeshire University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Focus of these conversations was on NHS estates (local health infrastructure).
- Meetings on a nearly weekly basis to discuss local health infrastructure to meet the needs of growth–Neighbourhood Health Centres [16 February 2026, 23 February 2026]. These meetings are currently ongoing.

Note: Up to March 2026, the Greater Cambridge geography was previously covered by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board, which was split into two place-based operational partnerships based on geographic locations: the North Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Partnership for Peterborough, Fenland and Huntingdonshire, and the Cambridgeshire South Partnership focusing on East and South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City. The Cambridgeshire South Partnership is the relevant partnership for Greater Cambridge. As of April 2026 - three NHS Integrated Care Boards (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ICB / Bedford, Luton and Milton Keynes ICB and part of Herts and West Essex ICB) merged to form a single NHS Central East Integrated Care Board (ICB), which manages and oversees the delivery of high quality, safe, and affordable health and care services for people across the whole of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Milton Keynes and Peterborough.

National Highways

- 6-weekly engagement at Greater Cambridge Strategic Transport Officer

Liaison Group (see section 3: Overview of Duty to Cooperate engagement).

- 8 January 2026 (joint meeting with CCC and CPCA): Local Plan updates; strategy – housing and employment; strategic site allocations; transport; Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy updates
- 19 March 2026 (County and Combined Authority transport colleagues attended, as well as GCSP's consultants Arup): Cambourne transport-proposed further Cambourne transport evidence, strategic/operational modelling, trip budget, EWR. Discussion on submitted representations to the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan.
- 19 May 2026: Discussing impact on strategic road network and mitigation package in relation to Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm.

Natural Cambridgeshire (Local Nature Partnership)

- 2025-2026: GCSP officer attendance at Local Nature Recovery Strategy group meetings
- 2025-2026: GCSP officer attendance at Natural Environment Policy & Planning Forum meetings (16 April 2026, 14 January 2026 and 15 October 2025)

Natural England

- 18 November 2025: 18 November 2025 (joint meeting with Environment Agency): approach to natural environment as part of strategy development and site selection, Water (supply and waste water management), plan-wide and cross boundary green infrastructure standards and delivery (including delivering on LNRS), site specific issues (focus on Cambourne North, Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm and Cambridge East).
- 13 January 2026: discussion on submitted representations to the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan. Revisited key areas of interest from previous meeting on 18 November. Green Infrastructure, recreational pressure, buffers, Eversden/Wimpole SAC (updated bat impact risk zone), HRA.
- 5 February 2026: CN GBI Technical Scoping workshop Stage 2 studies (details noted under CN Working Groups)
- 13 May 2026: Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 HRA recommendations relating to recreational pressure and SANG.
- 19 May 2026: Discussing ecological impacts and mitigation of recreational pressures at Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm.

Network Rail

- 26 March 2026: discussion on informal representations to the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan received after the formal consultation period, including

comments on draft Policy I/SI Safeguarding Important Infrastructure and specific proposed site allocations. Potential implications of the Draft NPPF for development around railway stations in Greater Cambridge were also discussed.

- 8 April 2026: follow-up meeting on informal representations.

Cambridgeshire Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) Steering Group

- This Group is comprised of representatives from each district in Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire County Council, and CPCA. As well as representatives from UK Power Networks and NESO. GCSP officers have attend this group as representatives of the Councils, along with others from across the Cambridgeshire local authorities who in combination are developing a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) for our area. This will help ensure that the right energy infrastructure is in place to support growth and Cambridgeshire's transition to a low carbon place to live, work and thrive. The LAEP is a strategic framework designed to guide Cambridgeshire's transition towards a more sustainable, low carbon and resilient energy system to meet future growth of the region. It requires collaboration among local authorities, government, energy providers, businesses, and communities to ensure the right infrastructure is in the right places to deliver local ambitions. Meetings dates:
 - 13 November 2025: Discussions on governance, budgets, training plan, Full RESP methodology and Strategic Spatial Energy Planning and links with Local Plans and allocation of sites.
 - 11 December 2025: Discussions on governance, routes to LAEP endorsement, LAEP deliverables, Strategic Spatial Energy Planning and next steps.
 - 15 January 2026: Discussions on governance, LAEP deliverables, additional LAEP work decision on approach and RESP methodology consultation.
 - 19 February 2026: Presentation from NESO on TRESP impacts on Cambridgeshire and the RESP Methodology Consultation next steps. An update was given on the UK Power Networks Local Net Zero Forum. Discussions on governance, LAEP deliverables and approvals status.
 - 19 March 2026: Discussions on Governance, LAEP Communication Plan, consultations on NESO documents including Grid Connection Reform and RSP methodology, and GBE updates. Presentation on Grater Cambridge Detailed Energy Infrastructure Analysis for Growth Areas and how it could be expanded to other areas.
 - 11 June 2026: Discussions included overview of LAEP workshop held on 6th May and next steps, Cambridgeshire LAEP Communication Plan.

Working Group Meetings - Cambourne North Technical Working Groups

Cambourne North Technical Officer Transport Working Group:

This Group is comprised of representatives including GCSP, CCC, CPCA, EWR Co. National Highways, Local Authorities (Huntingdonshire, Bedfordshire, Central Bedfordshire). The group has provided a forum for liaison on transport matters arising in the preparation of supporting transport evidence to inform the draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP) Cambourne North site allocation, including consideration of interdependencies with the GCLP global transport evidence and other strategic transport matters aligned with the emerging Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy (GCTS). Meeting dates:

- 4th Feb 2026 – Technical Scoping workshop Stage 2. Overview of stage 1 Regulation 18 outputs and representations received. Draft technical scope discussed and circulated to the group for comment and subsequent response to comments and finalization of technical scope.
- April 2026 - Transport Modelling Update, discussion on the initial transport modelling outputs and officer discussions focused on the forward model run assumptions.
- June 2026 – Draft Transport Strategy & Modelling Outputs, summary of the draft access strategy discussed and supporting modelling outputs. Draft report circulated to the group for comment.

Cambourne North Transport Modelling Group:

This Group is comprised of representatives including GCSP, CCC, CPCA supported by consultant teams. The group has been meeting on a regular basis from February 2026 to oversee the technical transport modelling development for Cambourne North to inform the Cambourne North Draft Transport Strategy.

EWR Cambourne Station Working Group:

This Group is comprised of representatives including GCSP, EWR Co. Cambridge Growth Company, Homes England, and CPCA. The group has been meeting on a fortnightly basis from July 2024 to ensure the EWR infrastructure investment opportunity is optimized. The group has overseen the development of the one repository of supporting technical evidence to inform the GCLP Cambourne North strategic site allocation, the EWR Cambourne Local Opportunity Plan (LOP) and the GCSP response to the East West Rail Company (EWR Co.) Development Consent Order (DCO) process for the new railway.

Cambourne North Technical Officer Green & Blue Infrastructure Working Group:

This Group is comprised of representatives including GCSP, CCC, CPCA, Natural England, Environment Agency, Wildlife Trust, RSPB, and the Forestry Commission. The group has provided a forum for liaison on GBI related matters arising in the preparation of supporting technical evidence (Ecology Strategy, Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment, GBI Framework Update) to inform the draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan (GCLP) Cambourne North site allocation, including consideration of interdependencies with the GCLP global GBI evidence. Meeting dates:

- 5th Feb 2026 – Technical Scoping workshop Stage 2. Overview of stage 1 Regulation 18 outputs and representations received. Draft technical scope discussed and circulated to the group for comment and subsequent response to comments and finalization of technical scope.
- 10th April 2026– GBI workstreams Update, discussion on the initial survey work and study outputs and officer discussions focused on the forward spatial framework considerations.
- 30th April 2026 – Summary discussion on the Draft Ecology Strategy, LVIA and GBI Framework Outputs, Draft reports circulated to the group for comment.